

CLAIMS:

1. A ground cover for cultivation of plants, the ground cover including a membrane strip having a side which in use is an upper side; and anchoring formations on the upper side of the membrane strip for assisting a plant in the vicinity of the ground cover to anchor itself to the ground cover.
- 5 2. A ground cover as claimed in claim 1, in which the membrane strip is water impervious.
- 10 3. A ground cover as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the membrane strip has a thickness of between about 15  $\mu\text{m}$  and about 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a length of at least 500m.
4. A ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the membrane strip has a width of between about 0.5 m and about 2.5 m.
- 15 5. A ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the anchoring formations are defined by a net.
6. A ground cover as claimed in claim 5, in which the net is attached to the membrane strip at a plurality of spaced locations, allowing the net to be displaceable away from the membrane strip, in areas where the net is not attached to the membrane strip.
- 20 7. A ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the membrane strip defines at least one aperture therethrough for receiving a plant.
8. A ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which is in the form of a roll, comprising a ply consisting of the membrane strip and another ply consisting of the anchoring formations.

9. A ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the membrane strip is of a synthetic plastics material.

10. A method of providing anchoring formations for plants, the method including

5 laying a ground cover as claimed in any one of the preceding claims on a strip of ground; and

securing the ground cover to the ground.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, in which laying the ground cover includes unrolling the membrane strip and the anchoring formations from a roll, comprising a ply of the membrane strip and a ply of the anchoring formations.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11, in which securing the ground cover to the ground includes securing longitudinally extending zones adjacent respective longitudinally extending edges of the ground cover to the ground.

13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12 inclusive, which 15 includes providing a tunnel or shelter over the ground cover.

14. A method of providing anchoring formations for plants, the method including

laying a membrane strip having a side which in use is an upper side on a strip of ground;

20 laying anchoring formations on the upper side of the membrane strip; and securing the membrane strip and the anchoring formations to the ground.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, which includes providing a roll, comprising a ply of the membrane strip and a ply of anchoring formations, and unrolling the membrane strip and the anchoring formations simultaneously to lay them 25 simultaneously on the ground.

16. A method as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, in which securing the membrane strip and the anchoring formations to the ground includes securing longitudinally extending zones adjacent respective longitudinally extending edges of the membrane strip and a body defining the anchoring formations to the ground.
- 5 17. A method as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 16 inclusive, which includes providing a tunnel or shelter over the membrane strip and the anchoring formations.
18. A ground cover as claimed in claim 1, substantially as herein described and illustrated.
- 10 19. A method of providing anchoring formations for plants as claimed in claim 10 or claim 14, substantially as herein described and illustrated.
20. A new ground cover or a new method of providing anchoring formations for plants, substantially as herein described.